



Cape Cod National Seashore News Release

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National Park Service Updates Salt Pond Visitor Center Reopening Schedule

Cape Cod National Seashore Superintendent Maria Burks has announced that the major rehabilitation of Salt Pond Visitor Center in Eastham, underway for 11 months, is moving towards completion. However, the center will likely reopen in early summer, not late spring as national seashore staff had hoped. "Our goal from day 1 has been for the center to be out of commission for only one summer, and we are still hopeful that we will achieve that goal," Burks stated. She cited the loss of a key subcontractor in early winter, as well as the extremely cold temperatures in December and January as reasons for the delay in project completion.

The project is now slated to be completed in June. Park staff will then begin the challenging task of relocating all staff, furnishings and functions back to the building, including thoroughly cleaning the building, reestablishing phone service, and setting up the information desk and bookstore. These tasks are expected to take a few weeks. Installation of a new modern audio visual system in the auditorium and reinstallation of the museum exhibit will continue once the building reopens to the public. "Our best estimate is that the building will be open by early July, as long as there are no further problems encountered with the project," said Burks. "We understand that the public is disappointed when the building is not open, but the staff continues to do a terrific job assisting the public from the temporary visitor center in the parking area," she said.

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The temporary visitor center is open daily from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Porta-potties are available for use, and the new restroom may open in advance of the main building. The temporary center includes staff to assist with trip planning, a well-stocked store which offers books, maps, puzzles, games and other interpretive items, and occasional ranger-guided programs. Several programs will be conducted during spring vacation week, and the park intends to offer its full complement of programs come summer. Area trails remain open, but some detours are in effect. Construction updates and listings of ranger-guided programs are posted at www.nps.gov/caco.

Province Lands Visitor Center in Provincetown opens for the season on May 1. The center includes exhibits, orientation films, a bookstore carrying interpretive items, and restrooms. The observation deck atop the visitor center affords spectacular views of the Province Lands dunes, the Atlantic, and Provincetown. The center will be open daily from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM beginning May 1.

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